Information and Communications Technologies

Overview
As Bulgarian companies must increase their competitiveness in the EU, and the Bulgarian Government must comply with EU directives and legislation on various aspects of the digital economy, new and expanded opportunities exist in the ICT sector. Bulgaria has long traditions in the IT sector and electronics. The ICT sector is one of the economic sectors in Bulgaria, which proved to be the most flexible and prepared for the crisis. After its penetration in Bulgaria many Bulgarian ICT companies were ready to counter the difficulties with successful partnerships and projects abroad. But yet another crisis is approaching – the lack of human resources.

International software companies find Bulgaria attractive because of the 0% export tax, low costs and local workforce skills.

A number of foreign companies are opening call/service centers in Bulgaria. There are opportunities for participation in tenders for sale of computers, peripherals, servers and other hardware technologies for government procurement. Moreover, the Bulgarian Government and many private companies have various information and communication initiatives that will provide major opportunities. The EU Operational Program on Regional Development has funding for broadband access for remote areas. The EU Operational Program on Administrative Capacity will provide funds for the e-government project.

The annual export of ICT products and goods from Bulgaria is valued on more than $ 1 billion or almost 12 percent from the total Bulgarian export, according to the reports of the World Bank and the reports of the International Economical Forum of Davos.

Sub-Sector Best Prospects
Sub-sectors of emerging importance include cybersecurity, e-health and Smart Grid technologies.

Additional best prospects for U.S. providers include broadband Internet access technologies, routers, switches, access servers, equipment for mobile telephony (base stations, backhole connections), and others.

Opportunities
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Web Resources
Ministry of Transport and IT-- http://www.mtitc.government.bg/